

of practical politics. Though it was not until near the end of his career that he was able to assert himself effectively in the field of foreign affairs he had early divined the truth that it is in this field far more than in the noisy and exaggerated strife of parties over questions of internal politics that history is really made. 'There is no subject,' he writes in the *Gallomania*, 'on which, as a society, we are so misinformed as our foreign policy. . . To my mind it is of primary, of paramount, importance : upon our foreign policy the safety as well as the glory of this country as a great Empire depends.' After the experience of a lifetime his judgment remained the same. 'Real politics,' says Lady Montfort to Endyrnion, 'are the possession and distribution of power. I want to see you give your mind to foreign affairs.'

One passage of the *G-allomania*, which is clearly not the outcome of any extraneous inspiration, has a curious and picturesque interest.

An Englishman recently resident in Egypt discovered by an accident that a secret agent in the employ of France was in the habit of being honoured with private interviews by the Pasha. It was immediately after the events of July. As the Englishman was well cognisant of the constant intrigues of the French in Egypt — a country of which we may some day hear, although it is not at present much thought of at the Foreign Office — he resolved to ascertain the nature of their conferences. By what means he succeeded, it matters not at present. . . . Let it suffice that he did ascertain that, in the event of any collision with England, a French army was to be received in Egypt and that India was to be threatened. . . . The feelings of the Moslemin population of India were to be excited, and even the Hindus were to be reminded that the most ancient temples of their creed rose on the palmy banks of Nile. . . . We possess no diplomatic agent in Egypt. A Consul-General, indeed, resides there, but his residence is the seaport of Alexandria. . . . But it so happened that about this time an eminent person<sup>1</sup> distinguished by his talents and by the confidence of our Sovereign, was travelling in Egypt, and the Englishman.

\* eminent

<sup>1</sup> Some erased words in the original MS show that the person was Sir John Malcolm.